## Homecoming new tradition this semester

by Chrissy Chiri

LSUS is once again making strides towards becoming a bigger and better university by having its own homecoming week this semester. The theme is "Treasure LSUS" and includes such things as a Pilots' Booty Treasure hunt with a \$150 Visa card prize, a student organization competition with a \$250 cash prize, a dance and of course the homecoming basketball game. Things will kick-off on Feb. 21, the day after the Mardi Gras break ends, and will end Feb. 24.

Homecoming week will hold events each day in which students can participate. One of those will be a "Pilot's Booty Treasure Hunt." This will run from Wednesday, Feb. 21, to Friday, Feb. 23, or until the Pilot's Booty is found. The grand prize is a \$150 Visa card. Clues will be hung on the UC Balcony at 8 a.m. every day. The first person to find the treasure will be

awarded the prize. The object hidden will be something related to LSUS and will be hidden somewhere on campus.

"The first day will be a really hard clue to figure out, but it's a great prize," homecoming coordinator Amanda French said. She is a senior psychology major and is enthusiastic about the school's having such an event.

"We are trying to get student involvement by doing all of this," French said.

All student organizations are especially encouraged to become involved in the week of school spirit.

Contests will be held each day, and points will be awarded for participation and for first, second or third place.

Such contests will consist of a canned food drive, a banner/window painting contest, Dodgeball Tournament Thursday and a 5k Fun Run/Walk around the LSUS campus. Points will also be awarded based on the per-

"I think having a homecoming week LSU SHREVEPORT is a big step in the right direction for this campus."

Amanda French Senior Homecoming coordinator

centage of the organization's members who attend Movie Nights Wednesday Thursday and Common Hour Thursday.

For each event, first place will receive 100 points, second place will get 75 points and third place will be handed 50 points. Participation points are set at 30.

At halftime of the homecoming game on Saturday, Feb. 24, the overall student organization winner will be announced and given their prize of \$250 to their organi-

The homecoming dance will be held on Friday, Feb. 23 from 8 to 11 p.m. Attire is semi-formal. Admission is

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Amanda French stands next to one of the LSUS homecoming decorations she created for the school's homecoming week. French is the coordinator for the event.

free to all students who provide a valid student ID. The UC Ballroom will be decorated like a pirate's ship for the dance.

The unveiling of the mascot will be shown on t-shirts that will be handed out to students. Although the mascot won't actually be there in attire, at least students will

be able to see what their long-awaited mascot looks

"I think having a homecoming week is a big step in the right direction for this campus," French "We're always trying to find new traditions for the students."

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Student TV

LSUS to broadcast program

SPORTS • 6



## Sports

Pilots rise in GCAC standings

## the Almagest

Volume 50, Issue 3



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"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

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#### **Editorial Policy**

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Mike Schwalke, Editor-in-Chief, They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

#### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

### EDITORIAL

## Students should find pride in school colors

#### by Mike Schwalke

The first homecoming event in our school's illustrious 40-year history is just around the corner, and although this is sure to excite many students, a certain element of school pride is absent from the campus. Students clad in logos from other colleges and universities abound. The heinous purpleand-gold of LSU is ubiquitous, but I also see Virginia Tech and Ohio State well represented. Perhaps the most shameful are those wearing Centenary apparel.

These students are Benedict Arnolds. All of them

I'll admit that my fashion sense is somewhat out-of-synch with my peers, and as a non-traditional student I am a bit of a fogey. But what sense is there in advertising another university on the LSUS campus? Surely these clothing choices are not made to celebrate the academics of those schools; they are meant to celebrate the athletic teams of those schools. Perhaps these students are confused about which university they attend or which state they are in. Perhaps they are unaware that LSUS has four athletic teams: men's basketball and baseball and women's basketball and soccer. Turn to page six for photographic evidence. And anyone who has stood in the endless queue at the bookstore should have seen a wide array of LSUS alternatives to a Florida Gators cap.

Everybody wants to root for a winning team. I could understand the reticence to wear LSUS Pilots gear if it were not for one thing: all four teams win frequently.

Last year, the men's basketball team won its conference in an exciting home game. Currently, the team is tied for fourth in the GCAC and fighting to get back to the confer-

ence championship. It has been a dramatic season since senior guard Josh Porter went down with a neck injury in November. Although the Pilots' home games usually have good attendance, a little support off the court is necessary.

The baseball team won its conference tournament last year and is beginning this season ranked 13th in the nation. Despite losing some key offensive performers and ace pitching coach Andy Heckman, the Pilots promise another season of big bats and stellar pitching. Pilot Field added a grand-stand and concession stand last year and this year sports a new playground area for younger fans. Moreover, the grounds are kept up by the team itself.

The women's soccer team won its conference last year as well. In the first two years, the team has been outstanding, making the playoffs twice.

Yet the only students I see wearing Pilots gear are the student athletes themselves. Obviously, they have a modicum of pride and rightly so. I wonder how they feel the day after winning a conference championship game when they have to sit in class next to some guy covered head-to-toe in a Razorbacks jumper.

Pledging allegiance to other schools by wearing their logos is silly and disrespectful. Take a minute to realize that you attend a university with a fledgling tradition of athletic brilliance. Also realize that the navy-andgold is aesthetically superior to some of the garish color schemes of other universities.

Please enjoy March Madness this spring and debate the viability of the BCS system next December. Root for whomever you like. But please, also have a little pride in the fact that you are and always will be a Pilot.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

the Almagest

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- Robert Lewis, director of auxiliary enterprises, explained the usage of student ID's to buy books in the bookstore.
- Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs, said students will be able to use
   POP mail in the near future.
- · SGA election applications are now available in the SGA office in the UC.

## Students can win big in contest

#### by Devin White

The historical essay competition is back. Sponsored by the LSUS Archives and Special Collections department, the contest awards two students for outstanding research and writing on a topic related to local history.

"The purpose of the competition is to encourage historical research and scholarship by LSUS students," said Laura McLemore, assistant curator for the Noel Library Archives and Special Collections. "We want to foster interest in the history and culture of the Ark-La-Tex area."

In order to enter the competition, students, regardless of major, must have completed a minimum of three credit hours of history or three credit hours in any college course and be currently enrolled in a college-level history course.



McLemore

Essays must make use of materials in, but not limited to, LSUS Archives and Special Collections.

First place wins the William B. Wiener Jr. Award of \$1,000. The award is given in honor of Bill Wiener, the

founder of the competition, Shreveport architect and preservationist.

The second place winner receives the Goodloe Stuck Award of \$450 named after the distinguished local historian and author.

The deadline for the competition is Monday, March 26. Applications can be picked up from the Archives on the third floor of the Noel Library.

## LSUS Foundation on firm financial footing

#### by Angel Arnold

LSUS may see some new campus projects soon. The LSUS Foundation, the organization that helps to fund campus projects, has recently reached a milestone: Its funds totaled \$10 million at the end of last year, which means more money for campus development.

The LSUS Foundation is composed of members who each contribute \$1,000 annually—or \$500 if they are faculty, staff or under the age of 40—to campus funds. About one-third of the donations received are restricted funds which go directly to the cause they designate. The other two-thirds go to the non-restricted funds which are put to use on campus and invested to earn more income.

Glenda Erwin, vice chancellor of universi-



Erwin

ty development, said that the Foundation tries "to protect the money as best (it) can."

In order to do that, it has an investment committee that keeps track of investments. However, scholarship funds are not invested, and scholar-

ships are the Foundation's number one priority.

The LSUS Foundation is optimistic about this year. The Foundation expects to have its earnings push its funds to between \$12 million and \$13 million by the end of June. It already has a donation of \$600,000, which was donated by the Abe Sadoff Estate. The Foundation plans to take that to the Board of Regents to ask for matching funds.

## **Campus Briefs**

#### Consultants put kibosh on LSUS rec center

At a special meeting with LSUS students on Feb. 1, William Canning and William Manning, representatives for the consulting firm Canyon & Gonsoulin LLC., affirmed that by studying the results of a Web-based survey held last fall, LSUS does not need to build a new recreation center but could find the needed space on the campus at present.

"Your campus at this time does not have enough need to build a (recreation) building," said Canning.

The consultants first came to the LSUS campus in October 2005 for a tour of the grounds. Following that, they held a forum during Common Hour, where they answered questions from students. Then a survey was sent out last fall containing a list of questions about recreational activities and LSUS's already existing facilities. The recommendations set forth by Canyon & Gonsoulin LLC. were based on the results of the student survey.

Recommendations were made that involved freeing up space in the UC that is not presently in use, such as the former bookstore and the game room. They also proposed renovating specific rooms in the HPE building and adding another entrance to the HPE building. The total cost of the recommendations would be approximately \$5.8 million dollars.

By Jeremiah Raab

#### Student IDs a must in bookstore

Even though complaints were made, the bookstore will continue to require student ID's for safety reasons.

Members of the SGA brought up the idea of getting rid of the student ID requirement in the bookstore at their meeting on Jan. 25. Their complaint was that it was taking too long to get students through the lines.

At the Feb. 1 meeting, Robert Lewis, director of auxiliary enterprises, informed the members of the SGA that the requirement of student ID's is the only possible way they can prevent fraud.

"(Student ID's) are required to buy textbooks," and anything else if you use a credit or debit card, said Lewis. But, he said, students can buy general merchandise, such as a pack of gum or a Coke, without having to show an ID if they use cash.

By Jeremiah Raab

#### New campus directories available online

The 2007 Campus Directory and Faculty phone book is now available from the LSUS Web site. The guided lists all faculty names, ranks and office numbers and serve as a comprehansive guide to office and departmental phone numbers on campus.

Hard copies of the directories can be purchased from the bookstore but require presentation of a faculty ID.

The two directories can be downloaded as PDFs at: http://www.lsus.edu/hr/documents/TelephoneDirectory0607.pdf http://www.lsus.edu/hr/documents/ALPHADIRECTORYJAN07.pdf

the Almagest

## University hires new PR director

#### by Alan Trichell

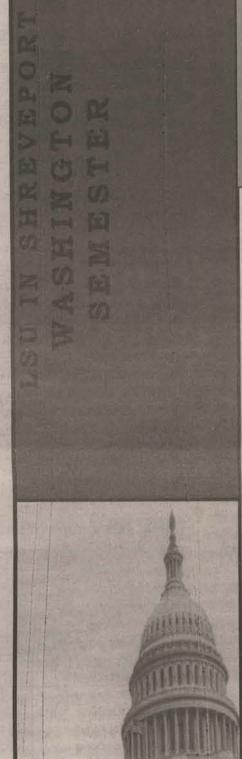
LSUS has a new Director of Media and Public Relations this semester. Jennifer LaPierre is replacing former director Gregg Trusty. Lapierre said she is excited about being chosen out of 60 applicants who were also vying for the position. She says being back in a university setting is the best part.

"I have a lot to learn and a huge set of shoes to fill, but I am looking forward to the challenges ahead," she said. LaPierre added that her toughest challenge right now is evaluating the way things were done by her predecessor and seeing if anything needs to be changed.

She hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the job and serve LSUS in the best capacity possible. She said she also looks forward to working closely with students and faculty and wants to keep in touch with what is going on on campus. She said that she has an open-door policy and encourages both students and faculty to feel free to come in and talk about anything any time.

LaPierre, who is originally from Shreveport, graduated from Louisiana Tech with a degree in journalism. While at Tech, she worked for Tech Talk, the Louisiana Tech school newspaper. She said she did not plan on moving into public relations but is glad that she did. She said that it is a better career choice because "you get more involved with the community on a personal level."

She also said having the experience in the journalism field helps tremendously in knowing what the media wants and expects.



## LSU IN SHREVEPORT 24th Annual Mini- "Washington Semester"

## MAY 14-30, 2007

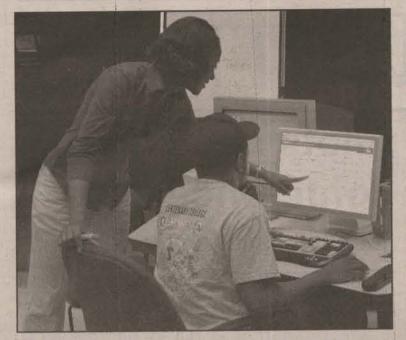
- ► Least expensive Washington Semester in the nation
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- No out-of-state tuition; stay in hotel in downtown

There are two large fixed costs: triple occupancy hotel room (approximately \$704), and tuition fees (\$717). Transportation to and from DC as well as meals, are up to participants to arrange as well as some minor expenses.

## **DEADLINES:**

\$400 deposit due DECEMBER 1, 2006. This guarantees a slot on the "Washington Semester" and applies to your hotel/tuition fee. It is non-refundable. Balance for hotel/tuition is due MARCH 16, 2007

For further information: Dr. William D. Pederson, Resident Director Washington Semester Program Louisiana State University in Shreveport One University Place, 321 BH Shreveport, LA 71115-2301 (318) 797-5138 fax: (318) 795-4203 email wpederson@lsus.edu or visit website www.lsus.edu/ lincoln/washington.asp



LSUS students Veronica Washington and P.J. Williamson edit footage for broadcast for the upcoming LSUS news show in the Electronic Media Journalism studio. The studio has a wide array of high-tech equipment. Students will be able to produce all segments inhouse and assemble the final broadcast at the university.

MIKE SCHWALKE

## LSUS to air news show

#### by Brittany Harness

Beginning in February, LSUS will launch a studentinspired and operated broadcast featuring campus-related news and topics that matter to students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Gloria Horning, associate professor of communications, brought the idea of a student broadcast to life and is working from the ground up with her students to bring her dream to life.

"It's an exciting time," Horning said. "The department of communications wanted to bring more to the broadcast journalism sequence, including hands-on learning."

She said, "Students will do everything: shoot footage, produce, write and anchor."

Hands-on, indeed. Students are responsible for every aspect of the project, including building the studio.

Amy Shirley, a senior broadcast journalism major, said, "The studio we will be broadcasting from was full of junk. We cleaned it out and brought all the equipment here." Shirley also said, "We're going for an MTV or SNL look, to hit our target audience. No one will be sit-



MIKE SCHWALKE

Dr. Gloria Horning works with student Courtney Todaro in the Electronic Media Journalism studio. Horning's students are producing a weekly news program of LSUS events.

ting behind a desk with a suit on. It's more relaxed news geared toward college students."

Courtney Todaro, a senior broadcast journalism major, is incorporating help from her father. "He's helping build a set for us," she said. She also said that this advancement in the communications department will "bring a lot to the LSUS community." She credits the formation and organization of the program to Horning, adding, "She makes this program what it is. It wasn't here before she got here, so it can all really be credited to her."

Horning explained what has happened since she was hired.

"In the last year and a half, we've been building curriculum," she said. "In such a short time, we're ready for our first six pilot programs." She also said "any input from the university for what they'd like to see or any other feedback is completely welcomed."

The broadcast will be featured on the school Web site and there is high hope that the program will be seen on the televisions in the UC, according to P.J. Williamson, a senior broadcast journalism major.

Horning and her students have still to name the news-cast and are accepting suggestions.

## LSUS Homecoming Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Canned Food Drive Begins

8 a.m. clue - Pilots' Booty Treasure Hunt begins

7 p.m. - Movie Night - "Pirates of the Caribbean: The

Curse of the Black Pearl"

Thursday, Feb. 22

8 a.m. - Pilots' Booty Treasure Hunt continues

Banner/Window Painting contest begins

12 to 3:30 p.m. — National REC Sports and Fitness day.

Activities for student all day in the gym

Common Hour – create your own LSUS Spirit t-shirt contest

5 to 7 p.m. - Dodgeball Tournament for all students, staff, faculty and alumni.

7 p.m. – Movie Night – "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest"

Friday, Feb. 23

8 a.m. - Pilots' Booty Treasure Hunt continues

Banner/Window Painting judging

8 to 11 p.m. - Homecoming Dance

Saturday, Feb. 24

8 a.m. - Homecoming 5k Fun Run/Walk around LSUS

campus

5 p.m. – LSUS women's basketball game vs SUNO. Senior

send-off before the start of the game

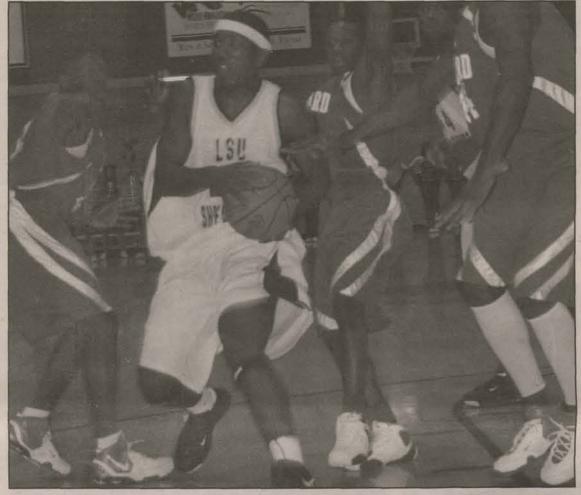
7 p.m. - LSUS men's basketball game vs. SUNO. Student

organizations bring canned food to game as part of admission fee. Senior send-off before start of game. Half-

time - announcement of student organization winners

9 p.m. - Overtime party in the UC for students

# SPORTS



Rodrigo Mondragon

Travis Cash, LSUS senior guard, tries to push through three defenders and lay the ball up. The Pilots are now 7-5 in conference play.

# Pilots needing big conference wins

## Team faces tough week ahead

#### by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots are currently in a three-way tie for fourth place in the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference after dropping a game to Spring Hill College on Monday in Mobile, Ala.

LSUS, Spring Hill and the University of Mobile are all in the tie. All three teams have six conference games left.

The Pilots played in Mobile last weekend against the University of Mobile on Saturday and then played Spring Hill Monday.

They beat Mobile 68-67 after LSUS senior forward Jamon Morris hit a free throw with six seconds remaining to ice the game.

However, against Spring Hill, the Pilots were not so lucky as they dropped the game, 81-72. Morris had a game high 25 points for his team, while senior forward Kyile Byrd scored double digits with 12 points. Senior guard Travis Cash and junior guard Carlon Simmons both chipped in with 10 points apiece.

The Pilots will look to get back on a winning track tonight as they face the Belhaven Blazers in Jackson, Miss., at 7:30 p.m. The last time the Pilots faced the Blazers was at home with a final score of 89-85.

## Lady Pilots move up in standings after GCAC wins

#### by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS women's basketball team is picking up steam in Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference play as they have won two of their last three conference games, including a win on the road.

The Lady Pilots beat the Dillard University Blue Devils Thursday, 81-64, at the Dock. Then they traveled to Mobile, Ala, and faced the University of Mobile Rams on Saturday, but lost 62-47. However, they ended their road trip on a good note by squeaking out a win against the Spring Hill College Badgers, 59-56.

The LSUS team is 9-12

overall and 5-7 in conference and moved up to a tie for sixth place in the competitive conference.

In their most recent game against the Lady Badgers, sophomore center Janai Sells scored 13 points and seven rebounds. Senior guard Jessica Kelly had 12 points and junior guard Edie Leonards added 10 points.

Senior guard Moche Roque, who was out at the beginning of the year because of a sprained right ankle, injured her left ankle and is on crutches.

"I twisted it against Spring Hill on Saturday," Roque said. The University of Mobile is in third place in the conference, and Spring Hill is the other team tied for sixth place.

The Lady Pilots have six conference games left and four of those are at home. Also, four of those six teams the Lady Pilots are facing, are ranked in the top five in the GCAC.

The Lady Pilots will face Belhaven College tonight in Jackson, Miss., at 5:30 p.m. The Lady Blazers are in eighth place in the GCAC with a 3-9 conference record and 6-15 overall record. LSUS beat Belhaven earlier this year, 77-61.



todrigo Mondragon

Senior guard Jessica Kelly takes off towards the goal on a fast break layup against the Dillard University Lady Blue Devils.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## UPCOMING MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

Feb. 13 - Akeelah and the Bee

Feb. 21 - Pirates of the

Caribbean: The Curse of the

Black Pearl

Feb. 22 - Pirates of the

Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

March 28 - SuperSize Me

April 20 - Charlotte's Web

April 26 - Casino Royale

May 3 - Pursuit of Happyness

## 'Messengers' same old haunted house flick

#### by Chris Gray

"The Messengers" focuses on a family going through emotional and financial turmoil which ultimately leads to their moving into a secluded farm house in North Dakota. Upon arriving, strange happenings begin to present themselves to the daughter and toddler son of the family.

Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott, Penelope Ann Miller and John Corbett star in this horror movie that looked as if it was going to be terrifying but in the end left me wanting something original and fresh. First off, the writers of the film could have gone to film school and learned what works and what

horror film. The film could have been terrific had they come up with something new and exciting, but sadly they were horror film illiterate. The plot of the film was lacking, but at least it had the potential to put a new spin on the old haunted house yarns that have been spun for centuries.

The acting in this film was better than in most horror films. Kristen Stewart ("Zathura", "Panic Room") portrayed the scared teenage heroine perfectly, and the toddler played by Evan Turner had good blank stares. Dy-McDermott ("Hamburger Hill"), John Corbett ("My Big Fat Greek es.

doesn't work when writing a Wedding") and Penelope Ann Miller ("Carlito's Way") sadly do not show their acting prowess in this film. Every character's lines were cliché from the motherdaughter conflicts to the stubborn father who refuses to sell the house when a better offer is made.

The only redeeming qualities of the film were the special effects. They were creepy as hell-ghosts climbing on the ceiling and materializing out of walls was scary. The only downfall of the special effects was they were not used to bring climax to a suspenseful scene. They were just mindless eye candy for the mass-



## Opera Xpress pulls into UC Theater

#### by Alan Trichell

The opera is coming to LSUS. A free opera concert, organized by Dr. Lawanda Blakeney, assistant professor of music, will be held in the University Center Theater at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13. The Shreveport Opera Xpress, or SOX, will be performing love songs from many operas such as "Carmen" in honor of Valentine's Day. The concert is free and open to the public.

SOX is the touring arm of the Shreveport Opera and is made up of many talented, young, professional opera singers. Many of its cast members are in their early twenties but have been per-

forming for years in various popular operas.

Blakeney said she is excited about the upcoming performance and said the LSUS performance is not a typical show for SOX.

"I chose a February date and specifically requested love songs from various operas in honor of Valentine's Day," Blakeney said. She said she wanted to bring the opera to LSUS and hopefully spark an interest in opera and the arts among the LSUS student body.

Dr. Robert Leitz, curator of the Noel Collection, funded the performance with money from his endowed chairship.

"My idea of a college or university education is not just job training," Leitz said. "You can go to a vo-tech school for that. My idea is exposing young people to a higher form of culture and hopefully propagate the next generation of concert goers and supporters of the arts."

He said that exposure to higher culture "enriches people's lives and that counts for something."

In addition to the SOX performance, Leitz has funded past performances from the Piatigorsky Foundation and will be bringing a lecturer from the Art Academy of Cincinnati to speak about the art communities of Cuba.

# FUN & GAMES

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Celeste Gauthier, owner

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist

By: Mike Schwalke and Diego Tripodi



## LSUS Sports Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 8

5:30 p.m.

LSUS at Belhaven College\*

Jackson, Miss.

(women's basketball)

7:30 p.m.

LSUS at Belhaven College\*

Jackson, Miss.

(men's basketball)

Saturday, Feb. 10

4 p.m.

Lindenwood University at LSUS

(baseball double-header)

5 p.m.

William Carey College

at LSUS\*

(women's basketball)

7 p.m.

William Carey College

at LSUS\*

(men's basketball)

Sunday, Feb. 11

1 p.m.

Lindenwood University at LSUS

(baseball)

Monday, Feb. 12

5:30 p.m.

Loyola University at LSUS\*

(women's basketball)

7:30 p.m.

Loyola University at LSUS\*

(men's basketball)

Tuesday, Feb. 13

6:30 p.m.

Louisiana College at LSUS

(baseball)

Thursday, Feb. 15

5:30 p.m.

Xavier University at LSUS\*

(women's basketball)

7:30 p.m.

Xavier University at LSUS\* (men's basketball)

> \* asterisk denotes conference game